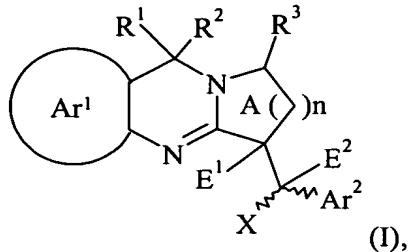


What is Claimed is

1. A compound of formula (I):



5 wherein

R¹ and R² each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkinyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁-C₆-alkyl), -N(C₁-C₆-alkyl)₂, aryl or aryl-C₁-C₆-alkyl group, wherein any of these groups may optionally be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, OR⁶, SR⁶, cyano, COOR⁶, CONR⁶R⁷, NR⁶R⁷, NR⁶COR⁵, SOR⁶, SO₂R⁶ and C₁-C₆-haloalkyl,

10 R¹ and R² together with the interjacent carbon atom form a 3- to 8-membered cycloalkyl ring, which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, OR⁶, SR⁶, cyano and C₁-C₆-haloalkyl or

15 R¹ and R² form together a group =NR⁴;

R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkinyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, aryl, or aryl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, COOR⁵, CR⁶R⁷OH or CONR⁶R⁷ group, wherein any of these groups may optionally be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, OR⁶, SR⁶, CN, COOR⁶, CONR⁶R⁷, NR⁶R⁷, NR⁶COR⁵, SOR⁶, SO₂R⁶ and C₁-C₆-haloalkyl;

20 R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom or a COOR⁵, COR⁵, OR⁶, cyano or nitro group; or a C₁-C₆-alkyl group, which, may optionally be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, OR⁶, SR⁶, CN, COOR⁶, CONR⁶R⁷, NR⁶R⁷, NR⁶COR⁵, SOR⁶, SO₂R⁶ and C₁-C₆-haloalkyl; or

25

R² and R³ together with the interjacent group -CR¹-N-CH- form a 5- to 8-membered ring;
or
R³ and R⁴ together with the interjacent group -N=C-N-CH- form a 5- to 8-membered ring;
R⁵ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkinyl, C₃-C₈-
5 cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, aryl or aryl-C₁-C₆-alkyl group , wherein
any of these groups may optionally be substituted by one or more substituents
selected from the group consisting of halogen, OR⁶, SR⁶, CN, COOR⁶, CONR⁶R⁷,
NR⁶R⁷, NR⁶COR⁵, SOR⁶, SO₂R⁶ and C₁-C₆-haloalkyl;
R⁶ and R⁷ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₃-C₈-
10 cycloalkyl aryl or aryl-C₁-C₆-alkyl group; or
R⁶ and R⁷ together with the interjacent nitrogen atom form a 3-8-membered heterocyclic
ring;
E¹ and E² each represent a hydrogen atom or taken together form a double bond;
X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, or a C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkinyl,
15 C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, OR⁶, SR⁶, NR⁶R⁷ or aryl;
the ring A may be substituted by one or more group R⁶;
Aryl, Ar¹ and Ar² each independently represent a 6- to 10-membered homoaromatic group
20 or a 5- to 10-membered heteroaromatic group containing up to three heteroatoms
selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; wherein each of
these groups may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the
group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, phenyl, halogen, OR⁶, SR⁶, cyano, nitro, COOR⁶,
COR⁶, CONR⁶R⁷, NR⁶R⁷, NR⁶COR⁵, NR⁶SO₂R⁵, SOR⁶, SO₂R⁶, SO₂NR⁶R⁷, C₁-C₆-
haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy and C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl; and
n represents an integer from 1 to 4,
25
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. The compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein
30 Aryl, Ar¹ and Ar² each independently are selected from the group consisting of phenyl,
thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, naphthyl, benzothiophenyl, indolyl,

thiazolyl, oxazolyl and imidazolyl, wherein each of these groups may be substituted by one two or three substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, halogen, OR⁶, SR⁶, cyano, nitro, COOR⁶, COR⁶, CONR⁶R⁷, NR⁶R⁷, NR⁶COR⁵, NR⁶SO₂R⁵, SOR⁶, SO₂R⁶, SO₂NR⁶R⁷, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy and C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl.

5

3. The compound of formula I according to claim 2, wherein
wherein

- 10 R¹ and R² each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C₁-C₆-alkyl group,
R¹ and R² form together a group =NR⁴;
R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₁₈-alkyl group,
R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, or a C₁-C₆-alkyl or cyano group,
E¹ and E² taken together form a double bond;
- 15 Ar¹ represents a phenyl, thiophene or furane group, which may be substituted by one or
more substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, halogen, OR⁶,
SR⁶, cyano, nitro, COOR⁶, COR⁶, CONR⁶R⁷, NR⁶R⁷, NR⁶COR⁵, NR⁶SO₂R⁵, SOR⁶,
SO₂R⁶, SO₂NR⁶R⁷, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl and C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl,
- Ar² represents a phenyl, thienyl or furanyl group, which may be substituted by one or
20 more substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, halogen, OR⁶,
SR⁶, cyano, nitro, COOR⁶, COR⁶, CONR⁶R⁷, NR⁶R⁷, NR⁶COR⁵, NR⁶SO₂R⁵, SOR⁶,
SO₂R⁶, SO₂NR⁶R⁷, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy and C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl,
- n represents 1 or 2.

25

4. The compound of formula I according to claim 3, wherein
R¹ and R² represent a hydrogen atom, or
R¹ and R² form together a group =NR⁴;
R³ and R⁴ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₆-alkyl group,
30 E¹ and E² taken together form a double bond;

Ar¹ represents a phenyl, thiophene or furane group, which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, halogen, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl and C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl,
Ar² represents a phenyl, thienyl or furanyl group, which may be substituted by a halogen atom,
5 n represents 1; and
X represents a hydrogen atom.

5. The compound of formula I according to claim 4, wherein
10 Ar² represents a phenyl, thienyl or furanyl group, which is substituted by a halogen atom, in the ortho position.

6. A method of treating a disease or condition chosen from:
asthma, allergic rhinitis, hypersensitivity lung diseases, hypersensitivity pneumonitis,
15 eosinophilic cellulitis, eosinophilic pneumonias, eosinophilic fasciitis, delayed-type hypersensitivity, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, interstitial lung disease associated with rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, ankylosing spondylitis, systemic sclerosis, Sjogren's syndrome, polymyositis, dermatomyositis, systemic anaphylaxis, hypersensitivity responses, drug allergies, eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome due to the
20 ingestion of contaminated tryptophan and insect sting allergies, comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

7. A method of treating a disease or condition chosen from:
rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, myasthenia gravis, juvenile onset diabetes, glomerulonephritis, autoimmune thyroiditis, Behcet's disease, graft rejection, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, spondyloarthropathies, scleroderma, psoriasis, dermatitis, eczema, atopic dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis, urticaria, vasculitis, eosinophilic myositis, eosinophilic fasciitis, cancers with leukocyte infiltration of the skin or organs, reperfusion injury, atherosclerosis, hematologic malignancies, septic shock, endotoxic shock, polymyositis and dermatomyositis,
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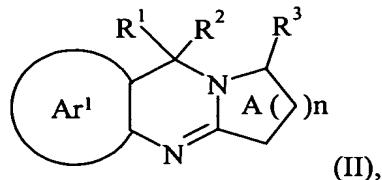
comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

5 8. A method of treating a disease or condition chosen from:
immunodeficiency syndromes, immunosuppression resulting from therapy chosen from
radiation therapy, chemotherapy, therapy for autoimmune disease and drug therapy, and
immunosuppression due to congenital deficiency in receptor function, comprising
administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to
10 claim 1.

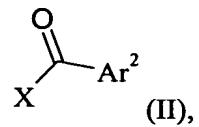
9. A method of treating a disease or condition chosen from:
infections from helminth, filariasis, trematodes, cestodes or visceral worms, visceral larva
migraines, eosinophilic gastroenteritis and cutaneous larva migraines
15 comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound
according to claim 1.

10. A Pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective
amount of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1.
20

11. A Process of preparing a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1,
comprising:
reacting under suitable conditions in a suitable solvent a compound of formula (II)



25 wherein Ar¹, A, R¹, R², R³ and n have the meaning given in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (III)



wherein Ar² and X have the meaning given in claim 1 and wherein if E¹ and E² are hydrogen atoms then optionally hydrogenating; and

- 5 subsequently isolating the product compound.